

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE
WASHINGTON



DEPARTMENTAL RECORDS BRANCH, A.G.O.

*Red Vault 14th Annual Review
614-INF(68)-023 A/A Report 68th Annual Review 14th Annual Review
A/A Report 68th Annual Review 14th Annual Review*

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 446 U.S. ARMYJANUARY UNIT HISTORY NARRATIVE

- 1 Jan 45 - Balance Trp C 94 Rcn and 1st Plat C-125 Engrs joined unit 0930 for movement. Bn and attachments began mounted road march from Schoenbourg 010945 Jan 45. For route of march see overlay. Bn and attachments closed in new areas at Rahling 011356 Jan 45. For location of troops see overlay. Co C moved into new positions 1530. 68 to establish holding position on commanding ground in present sector, using AT Guns, AG's, Mortars, Cal. 50, Cal. 30 MG's and S/A wpns for close in defense. Mission of 68 to establish center of resistance from which tks can maneuver atking from S, SW, or E thru our position. Our disposition to hold a fixed defense so tks can attack. Reconnoiter road system to E, SE of present position to E boundary of XV Corps because if ey atks thru woods, AT Guns and bazookas of this unit may be ordered to E against flank of such and atk. 68 be prepared to drop back to alternate positions vic Schmidtville, similar to positions in Rahling area to repel C/Atk. See atchd overlay of roving patrols of C-94 connecting their CP's.
- 2 Jan 45 - Bn and attachments began mounted road march to new area; head of column crossed IP 021252 Jan 45. Tail of column closed in at Niedersoultzbach 021655 Jan 45. See atchd overlay for route. B-68 (2 rifle plats) with 1-C-125 Engrs to outpost asgd sector (see overlay submitted) to detect and defeat any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat of B-68 in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve. 1-C-125 Engrs preparing road and tree demolitions.
- 3 Jan 45 - B-68 outposting asgd sector (see overlay for their dispositions) to prevent any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat, B-68, in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve.
- 4 Jan 45 - B-68 cont'd to outpost asgd sector to prevent any attempted ey infiltration from woods from NW or thru our flanks. One rifle plat, B-68, in support. C-48 and C-68 in reserve. I&R Plat motorized patrols making contact with friendly troops at Erkartswiller to obtain situation and also security patrol to Dossenheim. Patrols continuing throughout night every 3 hrs. See atchd overlay covering patrol routes.
- 5 Jan 45 - Tactical situation the same. Balance of unit and attachment carry-

Jan
45

- 6 Jan 45 - schedule (see atchd copy). 1-C-125 Engrs and C Trp 94 (-) joined unit for mtd march to Soultz-sous-Forêts. Unit and attachments crossed IP 2045 on mtd march. (For route of march see overlay).
- 7 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments closed in new area at Soultz-sous-Forêts 0432. C Trp 94 (-) relieved from attachment to 68. Unit reorganizing for any forthcoming mission. 1-C-125 made road rcn covering roads in immediate sector (see atchd overlay).
- 8 Jan 45 - At 0300, Co B, 827th TD Bn, joined 68. Rcn made by I&R Plat and CO, B-827 for defensive positions in vic of Soultz-sous-Forêts. At 1615 B-827 made practice move to defensive firing positions on high ground approx 1/2 mi. N of Soultz-sous-Forêts and upon completion returned to Soultz-sous-Forêts.
- 9 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments remained alert for movement. 1 Plat B-827 TD moved per request of Task Force Wahl at 1325 to vic N of Hatten. At 1500 balance B-827 TD Bn and C-48 Tk Bn joined forces engaged in tk battle N of Hatten. Rcn made by CO and S-3 in conjunction with I&R Plat to select defensive position sites in this sector. See atchd Plan for Defense.
- 10 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments remained alert for movement in any direction. A-48 Tk Bn joined this unit 101930 Jan 45.
- 11 Jan 45 - Unit and attachments began mtd road march, starting at 0530, to Kuhlendorf. Last elements closed Kuhlendorf 0625. B-68 and C-68 dug in defensive positions on high ground SE of town. Launched atk against Rittershoffen at 1545. B-68 relieved to join 48 Tk Bn prior to atk and A-68 rejoined 68. Inf, with A-48 Tk, advanced to within approx 200 yds of town; pinned down by hvy SAF and arty fire. 500 AFA (supporting 68) fired several rds smoke but visibility was too poor to observe. At dark Inf and tks withdrew to line (see atchd overlay) and dug in defensive positions. Hourly patrols contacting 48 Tk Bn on right and Co G, 222d Inf.
- 12 Jan 45 - At 0800 coordinated atk launched on Rittershoffen from high ground (see overlay of 11 Jan). Advanced and Fwd CP was set up in Rittershoffen at 1015. Atk divided into assault groups. Ey Tk, MG, and sniper fire held up troops in North center of town, and forced to withdraw to main street (Ck Pt 1, South). At dark outposted sector in our hands (see overlay). A-48 withdrew at dark to same position as last night with 1-C-125 out in front (for position see overlay). Contact being made with COB outpost hourly on half-hour and B-68 hourly on half hour, beginning at 1930. PW's: 1
- 13 Jan 45 - Resumed atk on Rittershoffen at 0800. (Ref: Sketch of Town) Progressed slowly from positions on main street of Rittershoffen. A-68 advanced slowly up street to left while C-68 advanced slowly up street NE of Ck Pt 1 South, both working in tk-inf teams. Intense SAF and mort fire (ey) from NE and N part of town around Ck Pt 1, North. Ey arty intense in town throughout day. Intense sniper fire from buildings. AG's and 81mm mort fired on NE part of town vic (15883430). Most of bldgs in town on fire from our arty and ey

- 14 Jan 45 - Further atk of Rittershoffen launched at 0900. Intense hvy ey mort fire from N of town, which held up troops considerably. Atk made by Tk-Inf teams. 2 ey tks knocked out by our troops (one Mark IV Tk and one Mark VI Tk). Woods to W of town flushed of all ey by patrols. At dark troops withdrew and held bldgs formerly held. Town still burning. (See overlay for location of troops). Friendly arty decreased intense hvy ey mort fire. Friendly arty harassing fires throughout night.
- 15 Jan 45 - Atk by fire continued on Rittershoffen at 0815. Tks being withdrawn a few at a time for maint and immediate return. Patrols moved out after hvy atk by fire, and engaged in fire fights. Resumed strong atk in afternoon. Ey patrols scattered by our arty fire. 81 mort and AG's active throughout day. At dark troops withdrew and held bldgs formerly occupied.
- 16 Jan 45 - Atk of Rittershoffen continued. Much less movement of ey vehicles, but intense hvy ey mort and arty fire continued. Steeple on church in Rittershoffen completely demolished by our Tk fire. Spasmodic ey burp gun and sniper fire from NW part of town. At darkness troops re-occupied bldgs previously held and outposted, making contact patrols with adjacent units. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night. 81mm mortars fired effectively on ey. Arty destroyed ey ammo dump. Our troops succeeded in flushing and destroying considerable ey.
- 17 Jan 45 - Continued atk of Rittershoffen in conjunction with 1st Bn, 315 Inf. Troops advanced slowly under hvy sniper fire. Ey aggressive, firing on our vehicles on Kuhlendorf-Rittershoffen Road. At darkness troops held previously taken sector and placed outpost defenses, contacting adjacent units. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night. PW's: 2
- 18 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. 68 patrols active in conjunction with 1st Bn, 315 Inf, and 68 relieved from attachment to 1st Bn, 315 Inf effective 1100. Contact patrols contact 62d AIB on left. Ey less active today. Received some intense hvy ey arty in Rittershoffen. AG's and 81mm mortars active, firing harassing fires. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout the night.
- 19 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. Strong combat patrols of 68 tried to force their way North in town, but were held down and forced to withdraw due to hvy ey sniper fire. 81mm mortar and 75mm AG's fired diversionary fire at (158-343) in order to permit strong combat patrol of 68 to make its way up street in W part of town in an effort to contact B-315, but without successful results. Friendly arty prepared for firing defensive harassing missions throughout night. 68 continued to hold previously taken sector of town, making contact patrols throughout the night (see overlay).
- 20 Jan 45 - 68 continued to hold sector previously taken. 68 withdrew upon

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95

- 21 Jan 45 - Bn completely closed in at Waldowisheim at 1230. Trains at (Cont'd) Reutenbourg. Outposted Waldowisheim with alert security and began reorganization.
- 22 Jan 45 - Unit remained in assembly area, reorganizing and resupplying. Alert security posted on all roads leading out of Waldowisheim.
- 23 Jan 45 - B-25 atchd to 68, as well as 1-B-125. Unit and atchments began mtd motor march at 1500 to fwd assembly area at Batzendorf. Last elements of column closed Batzendorf 1805. Outposted Batzendorf (For route of march see overlay) (For security see overlay).
- 24 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf. Town heavily outposted. (see Memo, this Hq, this date, for security). Unit alert for commitment.
- 25 Jan 45 - Unit alerted and atk jumped off 1230, objective being to tie in with unit on left vic (981257) and restore MLR. Atk formation: C-68 with 1 plat B-25, B-68 with balance of B-25. Troops advanced from Ohlungen to NE by-passing Schweighausen, circling W on either side of road, using it as axis of advance. Troops reached as far as vic (989252). At 1640 approx 100 ey debouched from woods vic (985246). Approx 50 ey wounded, 20 to 25 ey killed, with balance returning to woods. No evidence of ey armor, only SAF. At dark troops dug in along line (see overlay). 499th in support set up defensive fires for night. PW's: 68.
- 26 Jan 45 - Troops launched atk at 0730 from previously dug-in positions, with objective of re-establishing MLR along road in our sector vic (976255) to (993248). Despite deep snow and drifts, in addition to hvy falling snow, troops advanced with great difficulty, meeting no ey resistance, and reached the objective at 0930. Troops dug in positions along road vic (976255) to (993248) and awaited relief by 1st Bn 314 Inf. Relief was effective approx 1545. Troops were infiltrated out of positions to vic Ohlungen, mounted in vehicles for infiltration back to Batzendorf. All troops closed in Batzendorf 1545, at which time Batzendorf was outposted.
- 26 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments in assembly at Batzendorf; outposted the town.
- 27 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf, outposting the town.
- 28 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf, awaiting further orders.
- 29 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf, awaiting further orders.
- 30 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf, awaiting further orders.
- 31 Jan 45 - Unit and atchments remained in assembly area at Batzendorf. Unit contemplating movement to Bischwiller, to follow up atk of 2-142d Inf and hold in Oberhoffen.

By RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten notes in the center of the page.]

614-1NF (68)-3,1 S-3 Domestic Report 68th Army Division 14th Army

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 8 Jan 45
 To : 2400, 8 Jan 45
 Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
 Place: Soultz-sous-Forets,
 Fr.
 Date: 082400 Jan 45

No. 22

Maps: XXXX

1. OUR FRONT LINES: None

2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Soultz-sous-Forets.

3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
 1-C-125 Engrs atchd.
 Co B, 827th TD Bn atchd.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 Weather: Cloudy with snow.
 Visibility: Poor.

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD: At 0300, Co B, 827th TD Bn, joined 68th. Rcn made by I&R Plat and CO, Co B, 827th TD, for defensive positions in vicinity of Soultz-sous-Forets. At 1615 Co B, 827th TD, made practice move to defensive firing positions on high ground approx 1/2 mi. North of Soultz-sous-Forets, and upon completion returned to Soultz-sous-Forets.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Co B, 827th TD Bn, joined unit; rcn made for their defensive fires; practice set up by them.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

One (1) M4 Tk (75mm gun) (C-48th Tk Bn) "Out over 24 Hrs".

Lost During

Unit	Type Vehicle & Gun	Operationally Fit	Fit in 24 Hrs	Under Repair	Over 24 Hrs	Period
Co B,	Ten (10) M-18	9		1		
827th	(76.2 gun)					
TD	Six (6) M-20	4		2		
	(76.2 gun)					
	Two (2) M-8					
	(37mm gun)	2				
	One (1) Tk Recovery					
	Unit (81mm mort)	1				

BY RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 9 Jan 45
To : 2400, 9 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Soultz-sous-Forets, Fr.
Date: 092400 Jan 45

No. 23

Maps: XXXX

1. OUR FRONT LINES: None
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Soultz-sous-Forets, except Co B-827th TD Bn.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
1-C-125th Engrs Co B, 827th TD Bn (detached)
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Moderately cold and clear.
Visibility: Good
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Unit and attachments remained alert for movement. 1 Plat Co B 827th TD Bn moved per request of Task Force Wahl at 1325 to vic North of Hatten. At 1500 balance Co B 827th TD Bn and Co C 48th Tk Bn joined forces engaged in tank battle North of Hatten. Rcn made by CO and S-3 in conjunction with I&R Plat to select defensive position sites in this sector. Plan for Defense submitted CCA earlier today via Ln O.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Unit alert for movement. C-48 and B-827 joined forces N of Hatten.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:
TD (Co B-827th) Status - Unknown.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

BY RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

COPY

S-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 10 Jan 45
To : 2400, 10 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Soultz-sous-Forets,
Fr.
Date: 102400 Jan 45

No. 24.

Maps: XXXX

1. OUR FRONT LINES: None
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Soultz-sous-Forets, Fr.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
1-C-125th Engrs Co A, 48th Tk Bn.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Clear and moderately cold.
Visibility: Good
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Unit and attachments remained alert for movement in any direction. Co A 48th Tk Bn joined this unit 101930 Jan 45.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Unit alert for movement. A-48 joined unit.
8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

ALL operationally fit.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 11 Jan 45
To : 2400, 11 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 112400 Jan 45

No. 25

Maps: France 1:25,000 Sheets XXXIX-14 and XXXVIII-14 3&4.

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See atchd overlay.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See atchd overlay.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
1-C-125th Engrs atchd. 500th AFA in support.
Co A, 48th Tk Bn atchd.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Cloudy and cold, occasional snow flurries.
Visibility: Poor

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:
Unit and attachments began mounted road march, starting at 0530, to Kuhlendorf. Last elements closed in Kuhlendorf 0625. Co B and C dug in defensive positions on high ground SE of town. Launched attack against Rittershoffen at 1545 as ordered. Co B relieved to join 48th Tk Bn prior to attack and A-68 rejoined parent unit. Infantry, with A-48 advanced to within approx 200 yds of town but pinned down by hvy SAF and arty fire. 500 AFA fired several rds smoke but visibility was too poor to observe. At dark Infantry and tks withdrew to line (see overlay) and dug in defensive positions. Hourly patrols contacting 48th Tk Bn on right and Co G, 222d Inf. on left.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Unit launched attack on Rittershoffen, but forced at darkness to withdraw to high ground N and NW of town.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

Four (4) M4 Tks (75mm guns) "lost During Period" - time out - unknown.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH AFMD INF BN
SOULTZ-SOUS-FORETS
110500 JAN 45

MARCH ORDER NO. 8

1. This battalion moves out at 0530 to vicinity of Kuhlendorf where we take up defensive positions generally astride the road to prevent ey break-thru.

2. Move out in the order: C-68, B-68, Hq Co-68.

3. IP: RR Crossing, Soultz-Sous-Forets.

4. Density: 25
Speed : 8

5. B-68 will be on the right; C-68 on the left. (See overlay for dispositions).

6. CP - Kuhlendorf.

7. Trains remain in Soultz-sous-Forets. Medics and Maint set up in Hohwiller.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

BY RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
KUHLENDORF, FRANCE
111500 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER #1

1. a. The ey holds part of the town of Rattersnoffen, strength unknown.

b. 3d Bn 315 Inf is in part of town. Exact whereabouts unknown as is Hqs of 2d Bn 315 Inf. An officer is to join us prior to the atk to point out locations of friendly troops.

2. This battalion atks at 1545 to drive the ey out of the town, and be prepared to continue the atk on the town of Hatten. The 500 AFA will be in direct support. LD - Power Line. Direction of Atk - E and S. 3d Bn 315 Inf will assist in clearing the town. We atk companies abreast, C-68 on right, B-68 on left.

3. a. Co A will proceed from Leiterswiller to LD to join with Co C at LD. Co C will atk with its right on the main road on a front of 300 yds. Co A on Co C's left will atk on a front of approx 200 yds. Co B will report immediately to CO, 48 Tk Bn. Hq Co will remain in direct support of the atk from positions vic this town. A-48 Tk Bn will follow rifle troops in supporting distance prepared to delivery supporting fires on call, remaining initially in position near LD. 1-C-125 Engrs will follow the assault echelons by 300 yds and will be the Bn Reserve. CP - No change. Axis of communication - main road. Aid Sta - Hohwiller.

x. AT Platoons will be placed under Bn control for protection of this town.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 12 Jan 45
To : 2400, 12 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 122400 Jan 45

No. 26.

Maps: France 1:50,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay fwded via Ln Off.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay forwarded via Ln Off.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: See overlay forwarded via Ln Off.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Cloudy and cold with occasional snow flurries.
Visibility: Poor
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

At 0800 coordinated attack launched on Rittershoffen from high ground (see overlay accompanying S-3 Report No. 25). Advanced and Fwd CP was set up in Rittershoffen at 1015. Attack divided into assault groups. Ey tk, MG and sniper fire held up troops in N center of town and forced them to withdraw to main Street (Check Point 1, South). At dark, outposted sector in our hands (see overlay forwarded via Ln O). A-48 withdrew at dark to same position as last night with 1-C-125 out in front (for positions see overlay). Contact being made with CCB outpost hourly on half hour and B-68 hourly on half hour, beginning at 1930.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Portion of Rittershoffen in our hands being held.
8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

XXXX

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
KUHLENDORF, FRANCE
120700 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER #2

1. a. Ey has the Northern sector of Rittershoffen.
b. 3d Bn 315 Inf are in the southern sector. We are supported by 500 AFA and 499 AFA, who are in direct support.
2. This bn, with same atchments, atks the town of Rittershoffen to flush the town. LD - present position. Direction of atk - parallel Hwy 3. Boundary - Highway #3 inclusive, left to line of woods. We atk with co's abreast, A-68 on left. Time of atk - 0800.
3. a. C-68 will organize four combat teams; 3 teams consisting of two sqds ea with one team consisting of 3 sqds. These teams will clear the houses, together with two tks per team. Composition of teams: 2 sqds Inf, two Tks. At least four SMG's per sqd and one bazooka per sqd.
b. A-68 will remain in initial position where they will form a base of fire until the last of the combat teams have entered town. These combat teams will enter by way of Hwy #3. A-68 will then proceed to the position W end of town to follow by one phase line. When the east end of town is reached, outpost the town together with A-48.
c. Hq Co will be in general support of the Bn; mortars prepared to smoke in zone on call. MG Plat to fire indirect fire on N edge of town on call. AG Plat prepared to fire smoke and HE on call. I&R Plat to act as liaison with assault elements and as CP security.
d. 1-C-125 follow C-68 by 300 yds as Bn Reserve.
x. At Platoons be used to protect exterior flanks of Bn.
4. CP - Fwd: Rittershoffen
Rear: Kuhlendorf
Axis of Advance - Hwy #3.
Aid Sta - No change.
Route of Evac and Supply - Hwy #3
5. Current SOI in effect. Cerise panels to be displayed by combat vehicles. Co's A and C be prepared to mark flanks with yellow smoke on call. Any questions? Move out.

EDWARDS

Cmde

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 13 Jan 45
To : 2400, 13 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 132400 Jan 45

No. 27

Maps: France 1:25,000 (Reference: Sketch of Rittershoffen).

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay forwarded via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay forwarded via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: See overlay forwarded via Ln O.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Clear and cold.
Visibility: Good, except in Rittershoffen where smoke from burning bldgs is heavy.
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Resumed attack at 0800 (Reference: Sketch of town) Progressed slowly from positions on main street of Rittershoffen. Co A advanced slowly up street to left while Co C advanced slowly up street NE of Check Point 1 South, both working in tk-inf teams. Intense SAF and ey mortar fire from NE and N part of town around Check Point 1 North. Ey arty intense in town throughout day. Intense sniper fire from buildings. AG's and 81mm mortars fired on NE part of town vic (15883430). Most of buildings in town on fire from our arty and ey arty. At dark troops forced to same sector of town as last night due to most bldgs on fire. Ey counter-attacks of small forces forced back at 1700 and 1815. Outposted sector of town in our hands the same as last night (for positions see overlay submitted via Ln O). Troops firing harassing fire into houses with SA during night. C/A from East at approx 2115 successfully repelled and our defenses maintained. Contact patrols maintained with 48th Tk Bn on right and CCB on left, beginning at 1930.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Troops holding present positions, despite intense ey SAF, mortar and arty.
8. TANK AND TB STATUS:

All Tks operationally fit.

By RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
KUILENDORF, FRANCE
130700 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER #3.

1. a. No change.
b. No change.
2. a. C-68 will advance North to Check Point 2 Center to clean out as much of the town as possible.
b. A-68 move out on left of C-68 with same mission.
c. Hq Co: No change.
3. Omitted
4. a. Route of Supply & Evacuation - No change.
b. CP's: No change.
c. Aid Sta: No change.
5. Signal Instructions -- No change.

EDWARDS
Cmdg

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 14 Jan 45
To : 2400, 14 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 142400 Jan 45

No. 28

Maps: France 1:25,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Clear and cold.
Visibility: Good
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Further attack of Rittershoffen launched at 0900. Intense hvy ey mort fire from N of town, which held up troops considerably. Atk made by Tk-Inf Teams. 2 ey tks knocked out by our troops (one Mark IV Tk and one Mark VI Tk). Woods to west of town flushed of all ey by patrols. At dark troops withdrew and held bldgs formerly held. Town still burning. (see overlay submitted via Ln O) for outposting details and location of troops. Friendly arty harassing fire throughout night.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Troops held sector, despite intense hvy ey mort fire.
8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

A-48 Tk - 10 tks in good working order.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

BY RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 16 Jan 45
To : 2400, 16 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 162400 Jan 45

No. 29

Maps: France 1:25,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
B-68 returned to Bn control.
See overlay submitted via Ln O.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Clear and cold.
Visibility: Good
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Attack of Rittershoffen continued. Much less movement of ey vehicles, but intense hvy ey mortar and arty fire continued. Steeple on church in Rittershoffen completely demolished by our tk fire. Spasmodic ey burp gun and sniper fire from NW part of town. At darkness troops re-occupied bldgs previously held and out-posted, making contact patrols with adjacent units, (see overlay submitted via Ln O). Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night. 81mm mortars fired effectively on ey. Arty destroyed ey ammo dump. Our troops succeeded in flushing and destroying considerable ey.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good

7. RESULTS OF OPERATION:

Troops held sector previously taken.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

A-48 Tk - One (1) M4 Med Tk " Under 24 Hrs ".

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt. Inf

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 17 Jan 45
To : 2400, 17 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 172400 Jan 45

No. 30

Map: France 1:25,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:

See overlay submitted via Ln O.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Cloudy and cold.
Visibility: Fair

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Continued attack of Rittershoffen in conjunction with 1st Bn, 315 Inf. Troops advanced slowly under hvy sniper fire. Ey aggressive, firing on our vehicles on Kuhlendorf-Rittershoffen road. At darkness troops held previously taken sector and placed outpost defenses, contacting adjacent units. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout night.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Troops held sector previously taken.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

✓ B-48th Tm - 2 - M4 Tks (75mm guns) "Out over 24 hrs)
Sv-68th - 1 - Tk Recovery Unit "Out over 24 hrs)

/s/ A. E. Seifert, - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.
S-3

COPY

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 18 Jan 45
To : 2400, 18 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 182400 Jan 45

No. 31

Map: France 1:25,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
B-315 atchd to 68th for tactical purposes only.
See overlay submitted via Ln O.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Cloudy and cold.
Visibility: Fair
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. 68 patrols active in conjunction with 1-315 Inf and 68th relieved from attachment to 1-315 effective 1100. Contact patrols contacting 62d AIB on left (see overlay submitted via Ln O). Ey less active today. Received some intense hvy ey arty in Rittershoffen. AG's and 81mm mortars active, firing harassing fires. Friendly arty prepared for defensive harassing missions throughout the night.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Troops held sector previously taken.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS: No vehicles lost for period.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
KUHLENDORF, FRANCE
190700 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER #4

1. a. No change.
b. No change.
2. a. C-68 will againx atk toward Ck Pt 2 Center to clear that part of town and join with elements of B-315 Inf in the north end of town.
b. A-68 will follow C-68 and protect right flank and assist C-68 in clearing the town. A-48 will be in direct support of C-68 and its mission.
c. 1-C-125 remain in present position as Bn Reserve.
3. Ommitted.
4. a. No change
b. CP's: No change.
c. Aid Sta: No change.
5. Signal Instructions - No change.

EDWARDS
Comdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

COPY

S-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 19 Jan 45
To : 2400, 19 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Kuhlendorf, Fr.
Date: 192400 Jan 45

No. 32

Map: France 1:25,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS: See overlay submitted via Ln O.
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
Weather: Cloudy and mild, with occasional showers.
Visibility: Fair
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

68 continued to hold sector of Rittershoffen previously taken. Strong combat patrols of 68 tried to force their way North in town, but were held down and forced to withdraw due to heavy sniper fire. 81mm Mortar and 75mm AG's fired diversionary fire at (158343) in order to permit strong combat patrol of 68 to make its way up street in west part of town in an effort to contact B-315 - Results not known. Friendly arty prepared for firing defensive harassing missions throughout night. 68 continued to hold previously taken sector of town, making contact patrols throughout the night (see overlay submitted via Ln O.).

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good
7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: Troops held sector previously taken.
8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

~~XXXX~~ Tks operationally fit.

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf.,
S-3

COPY

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
KÜHLENDORF, FRANCE
201600 JAN 45

WITHDRAWAL ORDER #1

1. Omitted.

2.a. This Bn will withdraw to vic of Kuhlendorf where it will load on its vehicles and proceed to assembly area vic of Waldowisheim; withdrawal to commence at 1800 by platoon.

b. Order of withdrawal: 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 2-A, 2-B, 2-C, A (-), C (-), Hq (-) 3C plus 3 tks, B-48.

c. C-68 will leave one plat as a skeleton force to hold the 3n sector until 210300. 3 Tks, B-48, will remain to support this platoon until it leaves.

d. Upon withdrawal tks to revert to CO, 48 Tk Bn.

x. Units proceed to new assembly area by infiltration. Destroy any eqpt which must be abandoned. MF's will post the route.

3. Omitted

4. Bivouac party has been sent out.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

COPY

S-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 22 Jan 45
To : 2400, 22 Jan 45
Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
Place: Waldowisheim, Fr.
Date: 222400 Jan 45

No. 33

Map: XXXX

1. OUR FRONT LINES: XXXX

2. LOCATION OF TROOPS:

All co's except Sv Co in Waldowisheim, Fr. Sv Co Reutenbourg.
Co A, 68th atchd to 25th Tk Bn.

3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:

A-68 atchd to 25th Tk Bn. B-25 atchd to 68th.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:

Weather: Cloudy and cold.
Visibility: Fair

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Unit reorganizing in bivouac. Alert security posted on all roads leading out of town.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Fair

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Unit reorganizing in bivouac.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

<u>B-25 Tk</u>	
One (1) M4 Tk (75mm Gun)	"Out over 24 Hrs."
One (1) M4 Tk (75mm Gun)	"Out under 24 Hrs."

/s/ A. E. Seifert - (k)
A. E. SEIFERT,
Capt., Inf
S-3

COPY

By RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
WALDOWISHEIM, FRANCE
231400 JAN 45

MARCH ORDER NO. 9

This battalion moves immediately to vic Mommenheim.

Order of March:

I&R Plat
Hq & Hq Co
B-68
C-68
B-25
Medics & Maint

Speed - 10

Distance between vehicles - 50 yds.

Interval between companies - 10 min.

Route to be posted by MP's.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 24 Jan 45
 To : 2400, 24 Jan 45
 Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
 Place: Batzendorf, Fr.
 Date: 241900 Jan 45

No. 35

Map: France 1:50,000

1. OUR FRONT LINES: XXXX
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Batzendorf, Fr.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:

B-25 atchd.
 1-B-125 Engrs atchd.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 Weather: Cold and cloudy.
 Visibility: Fair

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Unit and attachments in bivouac at Batzendorf. Town heavily outposted (For complete information see memo and sketches submitted via Ln O regarding security).
 Unit alert for committment.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Fair

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Unit in bivouac; alert for committment.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

Company	Type Vehicle	Operationally Fit	UNDER REPAIR		Lost During Period
			Under 24 Hrs	Over 24 Hrs	
B-25 Tk	M4 (76)	6	0	0	0
	M4 (75)	9	0	0	0
Hq Co-68	M8 (75)	2	0	0	0

/s/ A. E. Seifert, (k)
 A. E. SEIFERT,

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95HEADQUARTERS 68TH ARMORED INFANTRY BATTALION
A.P.O. 144
U.S. ARMY

24 January 1945

MEMORANDUM: All Companies, 68th - B-25th Tk, 1B-125 Engrs.

1. Effective immediately one rifle platoon of the battalion plus three tanks will be on a 15 minute alert for the purpose of combating large size enemy patrols who may infiltrate through the MLE and attempt to enter or attack DATZENBURG. This platoon will be prepared to move to any lettered point shown on Sketch #1. Platoons will be alerted according to the following schedule:

24 Jan	1500-1700	1-B
	1700-1900	1-C
	1900-2100	2-B
	2100-2300	2-C
25 Jan	2300-0100	3-B
	0100-0300	3-C
	0300-0500	1-B
	0500-0700	1-C
	0700-0900	2-B
	0900-1100	2-C
	1100-1300	3-B
	1300-1500	3-C

2. C.O., Co B, 25th Tk Bn, will schedule alert tanks. Platoon Leaders of alert platoons will know at all times how and where to secure alert tanks.

3. See attached Sketch #2 for sectors of responsibility for defense of this town. Steps will be taken immediately that will enable the companies to occupy quickly effective defensive positions.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
3-3

BY RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 25 Jan 45
 To : 2400, 25 Jan 45
 Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
 Place: Winterhausen, Fr.
 Date: 252100 Jan 45

No. 36

Map: France 1:25,000 Sheets XXXVIII-14 5 & 6, XXXVIII-15 7 & 8.

1. OUR FRONT LINES: See atchd overlay.
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: See atchd overlay.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT UNITS AND SUPPORTING TROOPS:
 B-25 atchd.
 1-B-125 atchd.
 499th AFA in support
4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 Weather: Cloudy and Cold.
 Visibility: Good
5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Attack jumped off at 1230, objective being to tie in with unit on left vic (981257) and restore MLR. Attack formation: C-68 with 1 platoon B-25, B-68 with balance of B-25. Troops advanced from Ohlungen to NE by-passing Schweighausen, circling west on either side of road, using it as axis of advance. Troops reached as far as vic (989252). At dark troops dug in along line (see atchd overlay). 499th Arty set up defensive fires for night (see overlay).

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Good

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

See Par. 5.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

Company	Type Vehicle	Operationally Fit	UNDER REPAIR		Lost During Period
			Under 24 Hrs	Over 24 Hrs	
B-25 Tk	M4 (76)	6	0	0	0
	M4 (75)	10	0	0	0
Hq Co-68	M8 (75)	2	0	0	0
	M4 (105)	1	0	0	0

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
BATZENDORF, FRANCE
251130 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER NO. 5

1. The ey has driven the MLR S in vic of Ohlungen Forest.
2. a. Elements of the 42d Div now hold a line north edge of town of Ohlungen. Town of Schweighausen reported to be in friendly hands.
3. a. This Bn atks at 1230 to restore the MLR. LD - Woods N of Ohlungen. Direction of atk: N - NE, companies in column. C-68, B-68, B-25.
b. C68 will move around the E side of woods to Hwy 2 where it will turn W along road to form a jct with elements of 314. Destroy any ey encountered. Occupy position on the MLR until relieved.
c. B-68 will follow C-68 in supporting distance prepared to be committed on either flank. It will also occupy MLR on right of C-68 until relieved.
d. B-25 will attach one plat to C-68 and will follow B-68, protecting the right flank of the Bn.
x. 1-B-125 will remain initially in Ohlungen and will be the Bn Reserve.
4. CP's: Fwd CP: Ohlungen
Rear CP: Winterhausen.
Aid Sta: Winterhausen.
Evac & Supply - Axis of Advance.
5. Current SOI in effect. Any questions? Move out.

EDWARDS
Cndg.

OFFICIAL:

By RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

COPY

S-2 REPORT

FROM: 251200 A Jan 45
TO : 252000 A Jan 45
HQ 68th ARMD INF BN
Winterhausen, France.

No. 1

MAPS: France 1:25,000, Sheets XXXVIII-14, 5 & 6, XXXVIII-14, 7 & 8.

1. ENEMY SITUATION AT END OF PERIOD:

- a. Enemy front lines: See overlay.
- b. Units in combat - 19th and 20th Regts of 7th Paratroop Div.

2. ENEMY OPERATIONS DURING PERIOD:

- a. Enemy in defensive positions as shown on overlay. Resistance limited to small arms. No armor or AT defenses encountered.

3. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. Estimated ey killed - 150
- b. Estimated ey wounded - 50
- c. PW's taken - 42

/s/ J. E. Foppiano
J. E. FOPPIANO
Capt., S-2

COPY

By RB/MBNARA, Date 10-26-95COPYS-3 REPORT

From: 0001, 26 Jan 45
 To : 2400, 26 Jan 45
 Issuing Unit: 68th AIB
 Place: Batzendorf, Fr.
 Date: 261900 Jan 45

No. 37

Map: XXXX

1. OUR FRONT LINES: XXXX
2. LOCATION OF TROOPS: Batzendorf.
3. INFORMATION OF ADJACENT AND SUPPORTING UNITS:

B-25 atchd.
 1-B-125 atchd.

4. WEATHER AND VISIBILITY:
 Weather: Cloudy and cold with snow.
 Visibility: Fair

5. OUR OPERATIONS FOR THE PERIOD:

Troops launched attack at 0730 from previously dug-in positions, with objective of re-establishing MLR along road in our sector vic (976255) to (993248). Despite deep snow and drifts, in addition to heavy falling snow, troops advanced with great difficulty, meeting no ey resistance, and reached the objective at 0930. Troops filled dug-in positions along road vic (976255) to (993248) and awaited relief by 1st Bn 314 Inf. Relief was effective approx 1545. Troops were infiltrated out of positions to vic Ohlungen, mounted in vehicles for infiltration back to Batzendorf. All troops closed in Batzendor 1545, at which time Batzendorf was outposted.

6. COMBAT EFFICIENCY: Excellent

7. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS:

Unit successfully achieved objective; relieved by 1st Bn 314 Inf.

8. TANK AND TD STATUS:

Company	Type Vehicle	Operationally Fit	UNDER REPAIR		Lost During Period
			Under 24 Hrs	Over 24 Hrs	
B-25 Tk	M4 (76)	6	0	0	0
	M4 (75)	9	1	0	0
Hq Co-68 M8	M8 (75)	2	0	0	0

By RB/MB NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
OHLUNGEN, FRANCE
260700 JAN 45

ATTACK ORDER NO. 6

1. a. No change.
b. No change.
2. We atk at 0730. LD - see overlay (present dug in positions).
Direction of Atk - N & NE.
3. a. Co B will contact K-232 Inf on our left. Move out on 400 yd front, reporting at phase lines.
b. Co C will initially remain with its right in position, contacting B-68's right and move out when abreast. C-68 will atk on a front of 500 yds. When objective is reached, both co's will dig in and hold the MLR until relieved by 1-314 Inf.
c. B-25 to remain initially in rear of C-68 with one plat in close support of that co. Upon reaching woods tks will withdraw into the open and await further instructions, protecting the right flank in rear of the Bn.
4. CP's: No change.
Evac & Supply - No change.
Aid Sta: No change.
5. SOI - No change.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SELFERT,
S-3

By RB/MB

NARA, Date 10-26-95

HQ 68TH ARMD INF BN
OHLUNGEN, FRANCE
261100 JAN 45

MARCH ORDER NO. 10

1. This Bn will be relieved by 1-314 commencing at once.
2. B-68 and C-68 will each send 3 guides to guide relieving unit to location. B-25 is relieved effective immediately and will return to assembly area in Batzendorf.
3. Upon being relieved B-68 and C-68 will return to original assembly area in Batzendorf by infiltration. 81 Mort Plat, Hq Co, to move out with C-68. Vehicles will be dispersed just south of Ohlungen.

EDWARDS
Cmdg.

OFFICIAL:

SEIFERT
S-3